

ASA MEMBERS EXCHANGE

4 HUDSON STREET, ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

A publication of the American Medallist Sculpture Association

e-mail: <http://amsa.queenbee.net>

May 1998, Volume 11, Number 3

President's Message

Ann Shaper Pollack

I can't believe that almost one year has gone by since I became your President. AMSA has had some excellent accomplishments during this year, and I feel it has been a constructive time.

Survey Sheet

Many of you took the time to answer the AMSA survey sheet. Your responses help us to gain more insight into your needs and wishes. The survey showed that many of you joined AMSA to network with other medallists/sculptors; to have outlets for sales, and for exhibition opportunities offered by AMSA throughout the county. There were many requests for programs on collecting medallist art and for workshops on lettering, technique, and casting. Some respondents also expressed an interest in restarting our medals program, the need for a current directory of members and the possibility of reviving our Medallist Sculpture magazine.

Possibilities

I am happy to report that a members' directory is


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CALENDAR

May	Annual Meeting and Election of Board, 2pm
16	Board Meeting at noon
July	4pm, Opening of AMSA/BAMS show at the Money
11	Museum, Colorado Springs, CO. This show runs from late Spring through September 1998.
Oct.	FIDEM. Contact Dr. Alan Stahl for additional
21-24	information.

Bylaw Change

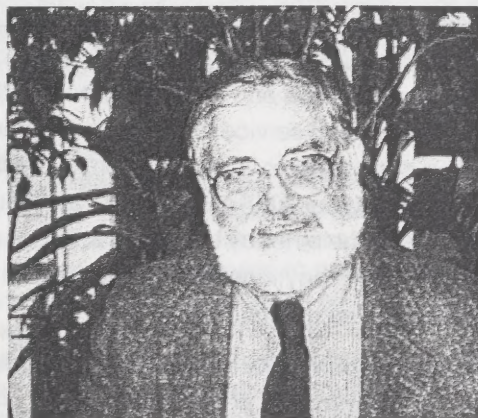
New Membership Class: Students

The Board of AMSA proposed a Bylaw change to be voted on at the Annual meeting. The proposed change would change membership to two classes, regular members and students. Because students are the future of this art form, the Board decided it would be advisable to encourage them to experiment in this medium and show with us in the future. 

Manship's Son talks about his Father

Marion Roller

John Manship in his slide lecture March 21 at the Pen & Brush talked about his famous father's philosophy concerning the practitioner in the arts. He, (Paul), emphasized "completeness in the arts." He believed the artist should be adept in all forms from sculpture to painting..



John Manship, AMSA guest speaker at March general meeting.

His father was skilled in medallist art, portraits, animal sculpture and heroic works such as the monumental sculptures in Rockefeller Center, to scores of other sites throughout the county. His medallist commissions for distinguished portraits, governmental and industrial awards made him one of the leading artists in the field.

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being prepared and will be mailed to all members when it is completed. However, some of the other fine suggestions cannot be realized at this time due to funding limitations. We are a small organization dependent on membership dues and exhibition fees for our funding. Given the current state of our finances we would need to consider other mechanisms, such as corporate sponsorship to publish future issues of Medallion Sculpture magazine. Our Board is investigating the possibility of reorganizing our medals program. We will provide further information on these items as it becomes available.

Volunteers

I am pleased to report that a number of members have volunteered to lecture on various subjects, such as the "History of Medallion Art" and "History of Art". Other members throughout the country have offered to look for suitable exhibition sites in their states for future shows.

New Editor

Articles in our Members Exchange along with illustrations of current work will help members learn more about medals and their makers. George Cuhaj, past AMSA President and more recently editor of the Members Exchange, has retired from this late position. We will miss his unique and timely articles and thank him for his dedicated service to AMSA in reporting the news. Our current editor is Janice Loomis. Janice recently designed our AMSA/BAMS 15th anniversary catalog. Please help her by keeping her informed of events, shows and anything else you would like to share with other members.

All your suggestions make me reflect on the great diversity of backgrounds and interests within our group. However, we all share a common bond namely the promoting of medallion art. I look forward to hearing more from you. 

Philip Listengart to speak at Annual Meeting

Marion Roller

We are indeed fortunate to have as our guest speaker for the May 16 AMSA General Meeting, Philip Listengart, distinguished sculptor and teacher. He will

present a slide lecture and speaking demonstration about "Relief Sculpture and its Relationship to Drawing".

Mr. Listengart was born in New York City and while learning to sculpt the figure at the Brooklyn Museum Art School, he pursued independent sculptural study.

After receiving his BA with Honors from Brooklyn College he worked as assistant to Elaine deKooning casting bronze sculpture, and assistant to Richard Navin casting and constructing chromatic epoxy sculpture, while doing foundry work and study at Mountain Metal Works. Later he assisted Albert Terris welding steel sculpture, thus rounding out a very impressive background in sculptural techniques.


While working for his MFA at Brooklyn College he taught portrait sculpture and two dimensional design and color. He also became an Associate Professor at the State University of New York College at Purchase where he still teaches three dimensional design and sculpture, bronze casting, woodcarving and drawing. He taught "Form in Space" at Pratt Institute for a year and he now also teaches at Queensborough Community College.

He also trained at the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis in New York City.

He has exhibited widely in such galleries as Robert Schoelkopf's on Madison Ave., Elaine Benson's, Bridgehampton, SUNY Purchase, SOHO 20 Gallery, etc.

His commissions include a portrait head of NY State Supreme Court Justice Donald Silverman, the Bronze Award for the Westchester Volunteer of the Year, Portrait of Anne V. Nixon, past President of Westchester NAACP, and portrait of Sigmund Freud for the Abraham A. Brill Library.

He was chosen one of the most outstanding teachers at SUNY Purchase 1970-96.

The meeting will begin at the Pen & Brush at 2pm. 


It is imagination that gives shape to the universe.

Barry Lopez

New Internet Gallery

Tommy Gilliland

Art in the Hand is proud to announce that it has opened a new gallery on the Internet, which can be found at <http://www.artinthehand.com> and is available to the art connoisseur at any hour of the day or night. The new gallery features artists that have previously graced the walls of Art in the Hand. Now the work of every artist the gallery represents can be seen at anytime. In the closed environment of a traditional gallery the amount of art on display at one time is limited to the space available within the walls of the establishment. In cyberspace there are no walls and thus Art in the Hand can show works of the thirty-eight artists represented all the time.

Well known for the international flavor of the works that it shows, Art in the Hand specializes in small sculpture and bas-relief. The gallery for the most part represents the very best of European contemporary sculptors. As Director Cory Gilliland has said: the presence of local artists at the gallery simply indicates the wealth of good art that is being produced in north Florida." Plans for Art in the Hand's Internet gallery include having monthly changing exhibits, greatly expanded portrayal of available art and the provision of computer links to other significant and bas-relief exhibits around the world. 

Creating an Art Web Site

Cory and Tommy Gilliland

Creating our own art web site (www.artinthehand.com) has been a lot of pure fun coupled with every variety of frustrations known to creation. The idea for creating the web site came about from simple analysis of our gallery customer base. A significant number of our customers were not from St. Augustine. We had made a big point of the fact that the artists we represent came from all over the world but not until we did some hard customer analysis did we realize that our sales had been just as diverse. This coupled with a lot of reading about the Internet propelled us into the world of cyberspace. And what an interesting world it is.

We needed the right hardware

It might seem elementary but one of the first things we had to look at was whether we had the hardware to launch such a venture. We were all right for everything but our modem the 9,600bps (bits per second) unit that came with the computer was all right for e-mail on American on Line but it wasn't going to carry us very far with our own URL. We upgraded and installed

what last summer was state of the art, a U.S. Robotics 33,600bps, but which is already slow by today's 56,000bps standards.

they do the electronic mumbo jumbo

Second we shopped for an ISP (Internet service provider). It is possible for a real "techie" to put together all of the necessary equipment to go on line and function as their own provider. For the other 99.999% of us one needs to have as ISP. Our computer talks with the ISP via a telephone line and they do the electronic mumbo jumbo that puts our signal out on the Internet. There really is no shortage of ISP's in our area. There are several in Jacksonville and two in St. Augustine. Further the major online servers (America on Line, CompuServe, and Prodigy to name a few) will all vie for your web site business. For us it became a game of trying to compare what each offered versus what it would cost. In the end we chose a local server St. Augustine On Line not only because their prices were competitive but because they were prepared to work closely with us in setting up our enterprise. It is nice dealing with someone close who you can just go see whenever a question comes up.

we next had to register our URL


After deciding upon our ISP we next had to register our URL. Your what, you say? Well use, our URL. Officially that stands for Uniform Resource Locator. In fact it is our exclusive Internet address. St. Augustine on Line helped us life the necessary papers with the outfit that registers all Internet addresses. The Internet name we chose of course was our gallery name, Art in the Hand, written in computer language as artinthehand.

we got solid support

Before we could open an Internet gallery, we had to be certain that the artists we represent would concur with our plans. What would artists from more than twenty countries think about our trying to market their work on the world wide web? We wrote to all of them and explained our plans. Only three demurred and in those cases it was because they had contracts with other galleries in other localities which would prohibit their participating. In every case we got solid support. Interesting enough since we told the all our Internet

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AMSA/BAMS 15th Anniversary Exhibit Opens in CO

The show opens at the ANA's Money Museum this Spring and continues through September 1998. There will be a gala reception July 11, at 4pm during the ANA's Summer Conference. For further information about the conference call 1-800-367-9723, Education Department. 

AMSA Members Awarded Gilroy Roberts Scholarships

Study Engraving in Colorado


Jacqueline Lorieo

AMSA is fortunate to have three members, Helen Hemmans, Jan Loomis and Jackie Lorieo who were awarded full scholarships by the Gilroy Roberts Foundation to study engraving at the ANA with Virginia Janssen. The two-week course (one week each summer) is offered during the ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs during July. It provides an intense but very informative experience with an extremely knowledgeable instructor. This is the only course of its kind offered in the US.

A total of six students are selected each year. These students bring personal artwork with them to create an exhibition, which is on display at the Campus Museum during the conference.

The first week of the course concentrates on lettering, working in the negative, casting 12" plaster disks, refining each one and working on the positive. By the end of the first week each student has a finished plaster ready for a wax casting.

During the second half of the course, offered the following year, students are ready for the real thing. They engrave a soft steel plug, which is approximately 1" in diameter. To do this they have to learn to assemble their own engravers, design a piece that will lend itself to engraving in the short time allowed and execute the piece. Soft steel is not very soft!

Jan Loomis was able to strike her design thanks to the folks from the Gallery Mint Museum, Ron Landis and Joe Rust. They hauled portable minting machinery out to Colorado the year she took the course. 

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address we received many of our replies by Internet. Several from former iron curtain countries.

computers don't know where they are

We had the proper equipment, were connected with an Internet service provider and had secured our own exclusive Internet address, the time had come to actually design our site. Computers don't know where they are located and when you look at a computer screen you don't know where the site is located unless there is some sort of an address on the screen to tell you. When people find our site they will be judging us against every other site they have observed and we will have to compete against the very best because so far as the computer is concerned we are all right next door to each other. Even though we knew graphic artists with respectable reputations, we knew we would have to secure a designer who could work directly with us, face to face, to hash out the structure of our site.


sympathy for the designer

One needs to have some sympathy for the designer who develops a web site for art gallery owners. We are not easy clients to please. In our case, after interviewing several designers we found a local artist, a graduate of Flagler College, who had the skills and the patience we were seeking. Molly Walker of Walker Graphics. She is the one who designed the web site into which we placed selected works of art that we photographed from our extensive gallery collection. Selecting the art to show was only the beginning, for the first time many of our artists would be seeing their art as it is presented in our gallery. A misspelled name could not be tolerated, a typographical error or a wrong price would be seen internationally. We had chosen well, Molly was up to the task and produced an outstanding product, which even included movable works of art. The medals revolve turning from front to back. The quality of the product is exhibited by the response and we have been receiving plaudits from as far away as Sweden and Israel.

art has to be replaced in the cyberspace gallery

A web site is always a work in progress and we are still working on our product. When pieces of art are sold they have to be replaced in the cyberspace gallery just as they were on the walls of the showroom gallery. Unlike the showroom with its limited wall space the walls of our cyberspace gallery are limited only by the amount of art we have on hand. To initially open our cyberspace gallery we have only exhibited one piece of art for each artist we handle. We are in the process of photographing all of the work that we hold and will also be putting it on display. Web browsers should keep checking back on the site because nothing will be static.

nobody is going to accidentally find our gallery

One thing about operating a cyberspace gallery that needs to be acknowledged, is that just like any other gallery one still has to advertise. Nobody is going to accidentally find our gallery on the Internet. Although we have some different areas where we will advertise, we still advertise in the same places that we always advertised when we had a show room. We know that we can sell the best product in the world but unless people know about it, it is not going to sell. We hope people will be intrigued by our new approach to marketing and will sign on the Internet at www.artinthehand to see what it is all about. 

At the moment when art reaches beyond its medium of words or paints or music, the artist finds himself realizing that these instruments are inadequate to the spirit of what he is trying to say.

Stephen Spender

NEWS FROM CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

Trout Run Medallie Art Coordinator

Trout Run at Mountain Top Gallery opened in Cresson, Pennsylvania March 28 and will run through May 15, 1998. Forty-three medals, representing sixteen artists, impressed a crowd of enthusiastic art lovers at Saturday night's reception.

The exhibition is a continuance of the last June's medallic art symposium held at Trout Run in St. Mary's, Pennsylvania. The exhibition was held in an effort to inspire more interest and understanding of contemporary medallic art. It also helped to kindle the fires for next year's symposium. Most rewarding for me was to receive medals from first time medallist Bill Davis, whose work has transformed itself from his fine drawings in graphite to amazing three-dimensional bronze images in miniature.

It was also a pleasure to open the box from Japan containing three beautiful medals by Masaharu Kakitsubo. What a delight to hold the medal titled "Egg," which was a derivative of a piece being cast by Stephen Brown during the symposium.

Because of the extremely high quality of this exhibition, art patrons were eager to learn more about medallic art and consequently want to see more in the future.

Many thanks to all those who took time to participate in this event, to AMSA for believing in the Trout Run Medallic Symposium, and to Scot Steberger, Director of Mountain Top Art Gallery for hosting and installing this exhibit. I hope this becomes a foundation for future workshops and mini-exhibitions. 🐾

IF it adapts itself to what the majority of our society wants, art will be a meaningless recreation.

Albert Camus

Paul Manship remains one of our most productive and internationally recognized sculptors of the mid twentieth century with a range of virtuosity few in the field have achieved. 🐾



Egg by Masaharu Kakitsubo



Beach Combers Find by William Davis



Puppies for Sale by Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

PEN & BRUSH EXHIBITION ATTRACTS AMSA WOMEN MEDALLIST AND SCULPTORS

ANN SHAPER POLLACK

The Pen & Brush 52nd Annual Sculpture and Medallic Art Exhibition took place April 17 to May 5, 1998.

AMSA members who exhibited medallic art were Heather Blume, Margaret Cassidy, Anne-Lise Deering, Gwen Marcus, Ivanka Mincheva, Annette Needle, Judy Pestronk, Sylvia Perle, Ann Shaper Pollack, Marion Roller, Jean Schonwalter, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Marika Somogyi, and Susan Taylor.

Awards were presented to the following AMSA members for medallic art:

The Medallic Art Company to Jeanne Stevens-Sollman

The Charlotte Dunwiddie Medallic Art Award to Sylvia Perle

The Margaret Sussman Memorial Award to Ivanka Mincheva

The Joel Meisner Award to Marika Somogyi

The C.A. Brown Award to Marika Somogyi

The Merit Award to Ann Shaper Pollack

Honorable Mention to Jean Schonwalter

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Editorial Policy:

All the news that's fit to print if it concerns medallic art will, hopefully, find its way into the Members Exchange.

I will do my best to edit awkward phrasing, but will not rewrite an entire article for you. I'm not that smart!

This should be a forum for questions and concerns but I will not print anything that bashes anyone.

Anyone who would like to share their technical expertise is welcome to write and share.

Because AMSA is not the only love of my life, I will try to arrange deadlines that are convenient for you and me. Please try to respect them. We can always make exceptions for something really exciting.

This newsletter should be published the 7th to 10th of each even numbered month. That can most easily happen if you can try to provide me with your typed or very neatly written information before the 1st of each even numbered month.

Please send articles, questions and news of interest to Members Exchange, 4 Hudson St., Enfield, CT 06082.

Thanks, Jan Loomis



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Sep-98

MEMBER'S EXCHANGE

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